

REMARKS

In the September 30, 2004 Office Action, the drawings were objected to and claim 9 stands rejected in view of prior art, while claims 10-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 9-17 also were rejected for failing to indicate and claim particularly and distinctly the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the September 30, 2004 Office Action, Applicant has amended the specification and claims 9-17 as indicated above. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 9-17 are pending, with claims 9, 10, 11, and 13 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Election of Species

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Applicant's election without traverse was acknowledged. Thus, non-elected claims 1-8 were withdrawn from further consideration. Applicant hereby affirms this election.

Drawings

On page 3 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with MPEP §608.02(g) for failing to show a legend designating Figures 1 and 2 as prior art, and for failing to show a connection in Figures 8 and 9. Further, upon review Applicant noticed a typographical error in Figure 7; "Current Mirror Unit" was misspelled. In response,

Applicant has filed herewith replacement drawings correcting the errors. Applicant believes that the drawings are now correct, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

On pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, Applicant has amended claims 9-17, and respectfully traverses the objection that an output terminal of a second PMOS transistor being connected to a control terminal is not supported by the specification.

Specifically, in claim 9, "output terminals" has been changed to -- output terminal --, "out terminals" has been changed to -- output terminal --, "cotrolling" has been changed to -- controlling --, and "bias terminals" has been changed to -- bias terminal --. In claim 10, both instances of "a" in "a first and second PMOS transistors and a first and second NMOS transistors" have been deleted, "bias terminal" has been given antecedent basis, and the recitation of a "gate of said second PMOS transistor" being "connected to a drain of said second NMOS transistor" has been changed to recite that the gate is connected to the -- biasing unit -- as suggested. In claim 12, "and output terminal" has been deleted, and "PMOS transistor" has been changed to -- a PMOS transistor -- as suggested. Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the drain of the second PMOS transistor is connected to the source of the second NMOS transistor. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection that the specification does not disclose the output terminal and the control terminal being coupled. As seen in Figure 8 and disclosed in paragraph [0098], the gate and drain of the second PMOS transistor BP82 are connected to each other. Claims 14, 16, and 17 have been respectively amended similar to claims 10, 12, and 13.

Applicant believes that the claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 5 of the Office Action, claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,229,362 (Choi). In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 9 to define clearly the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 9 has been amended to recite that the control unit has a comparator that controls a voltage of the output terminal by a difference of the voltage applied to the first and second input terminals. This recitation was recited in original claim 12, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter. As seen in Figure 10 of Choi, Choi fails to disclose a control unit 42 with a comparator. Clearly, this structure is *not* disclosed or suggested by Choi or any other prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as now amended, is not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 10-27 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has amended claim 9 as mentioned to recite a limitation of claim 12, and has amended claims 10,

11, and 13 to place them in independent form. Thus, independent claims 9-11 and 13 are believed to be allowable.

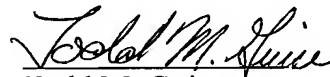
Prior Art Citation

In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicant believes that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

* * *

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 9-17 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Todd M. Guise
Reg. No. 46,748

SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
Dated: 12/23/04

G:\10-Oct04-TSH\GK-US035116 Amendment

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9. These sheets, which include Figures 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9, replace the original sheets including Figures 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9.

Attachment: five (5) replacement sheets